



Garstang Town Council

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Garstang Scout and Guide

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Full Council Extraordinary Meeting, 14th April 2026 Minutes

Chairman; Councillor Webster

Councillors present: Allan, Hesketh, Pearson, Perkins and Webster.

211(2025-26) Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

Councillors Atkinson, Brooks and Halford.

Councillors noted that Councillor Jennifer Lee-Bromley had stood down from the Council.

212(2025-26) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

216(2025-26), Councillor Webster declared a personal interest on applicant David Hodgson; she knows the applicant socially. She did not take part in the discussion or vote on the co option.

213(2025-26) Public participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

214(2025-26) Lengthsman Expansion Project, Councillor Pearson

Councillor Pearson reported that further to March's Town Council meeting, the circulated reports updated Full Council on the proposed equipment investment required to support the development of the Parish Maintenance Service and associated finance implications. The figures presented were known as of 07/04/26 and based on delivery of a Tier 3 service. The proposal is based on the HP (financed) model.

He explained that the investment is intended to improve service delivery, increase operational resilience, support existing contracts, and create capacity for future growth. Across all service areas, the value for money case is based on three linked outcomes: safer working, faster delivery, and longer equipment life through using the right tool for the right job.

The Clerk/RFO reported the new advice that had been received in relation to the Council borrowing/using HP monies, since the publication of the agenda. This had been circulated to Council on 13/4/2026.

The Clerk/RFO advised that utilising reserves would appear to be the best option and advised which EMR's could be utilised.

This was endorsed by the advice from LALC who advised that temporarily borrowing from your Borough Council is a good option if the balance is paid by within the year; this would not require permission (Secretary of State).

EMR balances could be used (virement), like Borough Councils who often use earmarked monies/budgets to alleviate its borrowing requirements instead of monies sitting in banks on one hand whilst borrowing on the other. As long as the budgets borrowed from are kept in mind and if still required, repaid back into.

Resolved: The Town Council resolved to purchase the Tier 3 equipment at an Asset value of £47,640 plus allowed £4,000 for storage, making a total of £51,640. This would be financed by using the following EMR's and rounding up the figure to £52,000.

EMR	Amount
General Reserves	£26,000
Moss Lane playing field	£5,000
New Community Investment	£6,000
Drainage on Moss Lane Park	£15,000
Total	£52,000

215(2025-26) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was resolved that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as per the Town Council approved 'procedure for a casual vacancy for a town councillor', whereby the Council will exclude members of the press and public whilst candidates gave their presentation.

216(2025-26) Town Councillor vacancies; opportunity to meet the candidates

Two applicants, David Hodgson and Gavin Kelly, attended the meeting and gave their presentations to the Council.

217(2025-26) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Re-admission of the Press and Public

To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

218(2025-26) Voting on appointments

Resolved: The Council resolved to co-opt David Hodgson and Gavin Kelly onto the Town Council.

The Meeting Finished at: 8.15pm